MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

2 MARCH 1983

Iran-Iraq Conflict

On 2 March Iraqi naval forces destroyed Iranian oil installations in Nowruz oilfield as well as five Iranian naval "units," including three tankers, INA announced citing an Iraqi military spokesman.

Syria

Commenting on reports that the Soviet Union has sent early warning radar aircraft to Syria, an authoritative source in Damascus said the announcement of such reports is "a threat to Syria" and is consistent with the U.S. and Israeli propaganda campaign, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The source asserted that Syria is determined to secure all "adequate means" to defend its sovereignty and independence against a "systematic campaign of threats" waged by Israel and the United States and is determined that the Israeli "massacres" in Lebanon will not be repeated in other areas of the Arab region.

An AL-BA'TH article reviewed by Radio Monte Carlo described Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger's criticism of the presence of Soviet SAM-5's in Syria as U.S. "encouragement for Israel" and a "threat to Syria's security." An ATH-THAWRAH article also reviewed by the radio stressed that Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens is preparing for "military aggression against Syria, supported and encouraged by the United States." A Damascus radio commentary reiterated that recent statements by U.S. officials indicate that the Reagan administration is "paving the way for a new aggression against Syria. The radio affirmed that Syria will not succumb to any threats and reserves the right "to answer" any aggression to which it might be exposed.

Lebanon

Khaldah Talks -- During the 1 March Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. talks at Khaldah the Lebanese delegation maintained a solid position in face of Israeli intransigence while the Israelis again insisted on the establishment of observation posts and a 45-km security zone, Beirut radio reported. The Israelis also announced their rejection of proposals made by Philip Habib, the radio said. IDF Radio reported that the subcommittee on security arrangements made progress and that agreement is near on the question of integrating Major Sa'd Haddad's forces into the security arrangements. On the other hand, no progress was achieved on normalization and the political subcommittee was still unable to agree on principles, the radio noted. The Israeli delegation spokesman meanwhile accused Lebanon of trying to render "meaningless" the agreement to hold negotiations, according to Jerusalem radio.

Arens Visit -- Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens visited IDF units in Lebanon on 1 March, Jerusalem radio noted.

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

During their 2 March talks in Ismailia, Israeli and Egyptian negotiators will attempt to reach agreement on interim arrangements for the Tabah area pending a final settlement of the disputed area's status, Cairo and Jerusalem radios reported. The two sides will also discuss bilateral procedures for implementing conciliation in accordance with the peace treaty, Cairo radio said.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the "striking hand" of the revolution is still strong and that the PLO will not lay down its arms despite its sincere desire for peace, SUNA reported citing 'Arafat's remarks to the Numayri Higher Military Academy in Khartoum.

In another development a PLO military spokesman asserted that Palestinian fighters carried out three successful operations against Zionist military targets in Israel over the past 24 hours, according to Baghdad Voice of PLO radio. One of the operations involved a charge that exploded in a Jerusalem military vehicle parking lot damaging many vehicles and injuring an Israeli guard.

Oil Affairs

The special OPEC meeting to determine a new price and output structure may be held on 5 or 7 March and a solution to the current crisis is "imminent," Saudi Petroleum Minister Yamani declared in a French television interview reported by AFP. Yamani favored a $4 per barrel price cut, bringing the Saudi marker price to around $30, but warned that countries which have invested heavily in alternative energy projects will face serious problems if prices fall as low as $26 per barrel.

Afghanistan

At least 25 Afghan soldiers and civilians were killed in Kabul during 21-22 February missile and bomb attacks by "resistance forces" against government and Soviet targets, AFP reported citing Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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SENIOR OFFICIALS MEET ON SUMMIT PREPARATIONS

LD011922 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1602 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 1 (TANJUG) -- The morning session today, Tuesday, of nonaligned countries foreign ministries high functionaries in New Delhi marked the beginning of final preparations for the seventh summit of nonaligned countries heads of state and governments starting here on March 7.

(?The) nonaligned summit official spokesman Manishanker Aiyyar told the newsmen that, at a closed session, the recommended agenda for the ministerial conference has been adopted. The ministerial conference starts here the day after tomorrow. The agenda proposal will be published when it is adopted by the ministers. The official summit spokesman said that an agreement [passage indistinct].

Reports are that today's meeting passed in a working and constructive atmosphere, even when disputed and still unresolved questions were discussed. Thus the discussion on the proceedings for the ministerial conference and the election of functionaries who will assist the conference chairman was finished. It was agreed that the conference of ministers works in plenum and in Political and Economic Committees.

At a meeting of the regional group for Europe it was agreed today that Yugoslavia should candidate [as received] for the chairman of the seventh summit Political Committee, while representatives of Malta and Cyprus will be proposed for two of the twenty ministerial conference vice chairmen.

The text of Cuba's report on the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau work in the period between the two summits which the hitherto coordinator of the movement, Cuba, will submit to the nonaligned countries foreign ministers, points to a conclusion that there will be no discussion on Egypt's position in the movement.

However, the problem of Kampuchea continues open. India, the summit host, adhering to the formula of "an empty seat" accepted at the last summit, has not officially invited either Norodom Sihanouk nor Heng Samrin's government. Therefore, Kampuchea's problem continues a subject for the ministerial conference, too.

Reports are that Libya has objected to the presence of Chad President Hissein Habre's delegation. Libya's representative has stated apprehension that Hissein Habre's representatives will also attend the ministerial conference and the seventh summit itself. Chad has rejected Libya's stand. The meeting chairman was informed on all this, so that the above was not discussed at the meeting.

As far as the admittance of new full-members, observers and guests is involved, the support was stated today to the already well-known Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau proposal on the increase of the number of movement members. Reports are that Luxembourg has also stated a desire to attend the summit as a guest. It is considered that European members of the movement will give their support to Luxembourg's wish. Otherwise, representatives of 88 of 87 full-members of the Nonaligned Movement attended the morning session today. Remaining countries representatives are expected to arrive either during the day or tomorrow.

Kampuchea To Be Discussed

BK0209O0 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Senior officials of the nonaligned countries who have been meeting in New Delhi today decided that the question of Kampuchea's representation should be discussed by the foreign ministers conference starting tomorrow.

The officials also discussed the composition of the Coordinating Bureau of the nonaligned countries. It was noted that many countries wish to join the bureau. The conference spokesman said that the need to consider the size and composition of the bureau has become more pressing for two reasons. They are that the size of the Nonaligned Movement has gone up and more members are taking interest in the work of the bureau. The officials are considering three alternatives -- to set up a bureau of the entire membership, enlarge its size, or introduce a system of rotation. The debate on this issue will continue in the afternoon session.

The officials endorsed the decision to admit Colombia, Bahamas, and Barbados as full members of the movement. They decided to recommend to the foreign ministers conference that (?Rwanda) should also be accepted as a full member. If this recommendation is accepted, the strength of the Nonaligned Movement will go up to 101. Another recommendation made by the officials is that the foreign ministers conference, which begins a 2-day meeting tomorrow, should be held entirely in plenary sessions. It was also suggested that the Economic and Political Committees of the summit should start their work tomorrow. Today's meeting of the officials was attended by delegates from 95 countries. The only country absent was St Lucia. Kampuchea's seat is vacant.

Nicaragua To Head Committee

BK010453 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The senior officials' meeting of nonaligned countries began in New Delhi yesterday to prepare for the foreign ministers' conference and the summit. As already reported, they finalized a draft agenda for the foreign ministers holding their meeting tomorrow. Nicaragua will head the Economic Committee of the summit.

CUBA'S ROA KOURI ADDRESSES EXPERTS' MEETING

FL011620 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1520 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] During the opening session of the Nonaligned Movement's experts meeting, Cuban delegate Raul Roa Kouri warned about the nuclear war danger threatening the world. Roa Kouri said the world is in a dangerous phase and referred to the world economic crisis. He asked the Nonaligned Movement to carry on the experts' work directed at achieving world peace, security, and prosperity.

The nonaligned experts' meeting, which is scheduled to end tomorrow, is being chaired by Raul Roa Kouri, Cuba's permanent representative to the United Nations. Of the 97 delegations to the nonaligned summit, 88 representatives attended the experts' meeting.

FOREIGN MINISTERS, DELEGATIONS ARRIVE IN DELHI

BK020838 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] Foreign ministers of 12 countries along with the members of their delegations have arrived in New Delhi. They are from Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore, Barbados, Nigeria, Jordan, Zaire, Somalia, Lesotho, Yemen PDY, Mali, and Zambia. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iraq, Mr Tariq 'Aziz, arrived in New Delhi yesterday. The foreign ministers are holding their meeting tomorrow.

REPORTAGE ON FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS

Dost, Malmierca

LD011424 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 0630 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Kabul, 1 Mar (BAKHTAR) -- DRA Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost met with Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca in New Delhi yesterday.

According to a BAKHTAR correspondent's report from New Delhi, during the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on the agenda of the seventh conference of the heads of state or government of nonaligned countries. The meeting was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

Ghali, 'Aziz

NC021016 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] A dispatch from the radio mission in New Delhi says Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali met this morning in the Indian capital with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. The radio mission learned that the two ministers reviewed the topics that will be submitted to the nonaligned summit conference, developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war, the situation in the Middle East, and other international issues.

'Aziz, Ibrahimi

JN020919 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, 2 Mar (INA) -- Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi. During the meeting, a discussion took place on the current preparations for the nonaligned summit conference. The meeting lasted 1 hour.

SECURITY WEB SET UP AROUND IRAQI DELEGATION

BK011103 Hong Kong AFP in English 1037 GMT 1 Mar 83

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Excerpts] New Delhi, March 1 (AFP) -- Federal Indian agents today threw a special protective web around the Iraqi delegation following intelligence reports that Iranian students were planning demonstrations against their country's enemy in the 29-month-old Gulf war. They did not elaborate.

Iraqi Embassy spokesman Samir Mustafa confirmed the intelligence report and said "we are not bothered".

Indian officials said the Iranians were planning to hold demonstrations on Monday when the summit formally opens. Officials said Iranian students were arriving here from various places in large numbers and their presence here itself was a "security risk".

The Iranian Embassy here was not available for comment.

25 PEOPLE KILLED IN KABUL ROCKET, BOMB ATTACKS

BK020441 Hong Kong AFP in English 0436 GMT 2 Mar 83

[By Michel Martin-Roland]

[Text] Islamabad, March 2 (AFP) -- At lease 25 pro-government soldiers and civilians were killed in the Afghan capital Kabul recently in a series of rocket and bomb attacks by resistance forces on government and Soviet targets, Western diplomatic sources have said here.

The coordinated attacks were reported to have occured February 21 and 22 to mark the third anniversary of a major anti-Soviet demonstration in the city.

Observers here said yesterday that last month's operation, as well as a similar campaign at the end of December, was aimed at demonstrating the capacity of mujahadeen groups to penetrate and destabilize the capital.

Althouth thought to be more spectacular than militarily significant, the attacks, according to the resistance, reveal an improved coordination among the various rebel units inside Kabul and those groups of fighters sent in from Pakistan.

But Western diplomats have pointed out that shopkeepers and civil servants did not respond to an appeal by the resistance to stage a strike February 22. They said Kabul authorities had threatened to sanction merchants and employees if they took part in the action.

The skyline of the capital, according to diplomats, was illuminated by hundreds of tracer bullets, fired by Afghan and Soviet troops. The sound of artillery fire reverberated throughout the city that began in evening, minutes after the start of a curfew.

At the same time, according to diplomatic sources, the mujahadeen launched simultaneous rocket attacks on government buildings in southern Kabul, with several rockets being fired on the Soviet Embassy in the Darul Aman District.

However, no damage to the mission was apparent to observers the next day. The Darul Aman Palace, housing the offices of the Afghan Defense Ministry and the nearby Soviet military headquarters in the Taj-Beg Palace were also said to have come under rocket attack for several hours.

Six soldiers, four Afghan and two Soviet, died when their jeep was struck by a projectile, diplomats reported, while other military targets near the Darul Aman Palace were also rocketed.

To the west of the city, in the suburb of Kote Sangi, rebel firing killed 12 soldiers who were leaving an Afghan military post, the diplomats said.

The campaign apparently continued the next day, February 22, when three explosions shook the Microrayon quarter where apartments reserved for Soviet officials and partisans of the Afghan regime are located. A bus was reported to have blown up after encountering a landmine, killing all six government employees who were abroad.

Shortly afterwards a bomb blast damaged offices of the Bank of Afghanistan in the same area.

Kabul authorities said these explosions killed three and wounded 10, but diplomats believe the toll was much higher. They said the district hospital received at least 12 persons who had been wounded during the morning, while in other medical facilities, many persons, apparently injured in exchanges of fire during the night, underwent emergency surgery.

On the same day, Soviet soldiers, wearing bullet-proof vests for the first time, were sent to the Microrayon district in eight armored transport vehicles, according to diplomatic sources, who said the troops had been on a state of alert for a week and had stepped up their house searches.

BREZHNEV REPORTEDLY URGED KING TO ATTACK PAKISTAN

GF011817 Lahore JANG in Urdu 25 Feb 83 p 1, 8

[Correspondent's report]

[Text] Karachi -- Sardar Soltan Ahmad Khan, grandson of late King Sher 'Ali Khan of Afghanistan and uncle by marriage of the late President Daud and the former King Zahir Shah of Afghanistan, has revealed that the Soviet Union had advised former King Zahir Shah to attack Pakistan. However, the king refused to do so on the grounds that if he did so, he would not be able to face the Muslim world, as Pakistan is an Islamic country.

Sardar Soltan Ahmad Khan revealed this to the JANG correspondent in an exclusive interview today. He stressed that there is no truth to the statement by the Soviet expert for Asian affairs, Mr (Kingovskiy), who has said that former King Zahir Shah and former General Abdul Wali Khan of Afghanistan had made plans to occupy Peshawar in Pakistan. He said when King Zahir Shah paid his last official visit to Moscow he was advised by Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, that Afghanistan should attack Pakistan. The former king told this to his family doctor, Mr Homayun, a nephew of the doctor and former director general of education in the Afghan Government, Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim Shari'ati. Later, Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim Shari'ati told Sardar Soltan Ahmad of this disclosure by former King Zahir Shah.

Sardar Soltan Ahmad Khan, speaking in detail about the Soviet intentions, said that at the time Brezhnev asked former King Zahir Shah to attack Pakistan, the king replied that he did not have enough force to do so. Brezhnev then told him that he should attack and the Soviet Union would take care of the rest of the operation. However, when the Soviet leader began to press the matter, the former king told him that since Pakistan was an Islamic country, he could not possibly attack it because if he did, he would become unpopular in the Islamic world. At this Brezhnev shook his head and remarked: "So this is so."

Sardar Soltan Ahmad Khan, who is visiting Karachi for medical treatment, said although there was enmity between his family and the family of Zahir Shah, as a senior elder among the descendents of King Dost Mohammad Khan, he has ended the enmity and he still considers former King Zahir Shah to be the legitimate king of Afghanistan. He said Zahir Shah is still as popular in Afghanistan as he was before. Sardar Soltan Ahmad Khan challenged the Soviet Union that even if a referendum were to be held today in Afghanistan under UN supervision, he believes the people in Afghanistan and the Afghan refugees would vote in favor of King Zahir Shah. He said that there could be no peace in Afghanistan until Zahir Shah is returned. In that event, the Soviet forces would also leave Afghanistan.

62D SOVIET-AFGHAN TREATY ANNIVERSARY MARKED

LD282252 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] The 62d anniversary of the conclusion of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union was marked today with a glorious reception at the headquarters of the union of Afghan friendship societies with foreign countries given by the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society.

The reception was attended by Anahita Ratebzad, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society; members of the Politburo and secretaries of the PDPA Central Committee; members of the party Central Committee; the deputy and members of the Revolutionary Council Presidium; the vice chairmen and members of the DRA Council of Ministers; Army generals and officers; high-ranking party and state officials; members of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society; the USSR ambassador in Kabul; and a number of ambassadors and charges d'affaires of friendly countries in Kabul.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the national anthems of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union were played, after which Gol Dad, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and vice chairman of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society, delivered a speech on the conclusion of the treaty of friendship and cooperation during the past 62 years between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and its further strengthening. He said: We have gathered today the mark a treaty which was signed exactly 62 years ago, 28 February 1921, between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. It was necessary, and not by accident, that the friendly relations, respect for each others territorial integrity and friendship between the peoples of the two countries should have been of such duration.

He added: Various events during these 62 years in our countries, in the region, and in the world not only caused no disorder in the mutual friendship between our countries, but since the April Revolution and especially after its new development stage, this friendship has consolidated more than ever in the interests of the people of the two countries and has been enhanced to the level of brotherhood.

The vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and vice chairman of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Society praised the extensive aid given to Afghanistan by the Soviet Union in the various economic, cultural, technical, and other areas from the beginning of Afghanistan's independence to the April Revolution and since then to this day.

He added that the people of Afghanistan appreciate and attach great importance to Afghan-Soviet friendship and the comprehensive aid that the Soviet Union has given and is giving for the development of our country at various times and in various areas and see it as the mark of good friendly relations between the people of the two countries.

Alekseyev, minister-counsellor plenipotentiary of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul, later spoke on this lasting and indestructible friendship between the Soviet Union and friendship between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan, saying the conclusion of the treaty of Soviet-Afghan friendship in February 1921 is of historic importance for both countries. During the years since the signing of this treaty, the vitality of its contents has been tested and proven. He added: After victory of the April Revolution, Afghan-Soviet relations have further expanded and have changed to relations of brotherly and revolutionary solidarity and comprehensive cooperation. Alekseyev added that the Soviet Union, which fulfills its internationalist duty with loyalty, has given and will give fraternal aid to the people of Afghanistan for the defense of the gains of the April Revolution, implementation of the objectives and aspiration of the revolution, and the construction of the new society.

RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ANNOUNCED

BK0204 30 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] An official announcement in Dhaka yesterday said in pursuance of the chief martial law administrator's decision to take the task of national consolidation, discussion, and consent with all who have the best interest of the nation at the most in their minds, the government has revised the decision to detain some political leaders. It may be recalled that the government was constrained to detain them to prevent further deterioration of the grave situation created on the 14th and 15th of February last.

After reviewing the situation, it has now decided to release some political leaders to help accelerate the process of bringing about a peaceful atmosphere in the country which will be conducive to democratization of the political system. The political leaders are: Begum Sheikh Hasin Awajed, (Begum Shaheda Khatun), Begum Matia Chowdhury, Syed Altaf Hussein, Janab [Mr] Rashed Khan Menon, Dr Kamal Hussain, Janab Abdul Mannan, Janaba Tufail Ahmad, Janab Abdus Samad Azad, [name indistinct], (Janab A.D.M. Rashid), (Mr Ghulam Arshad Chowdhury), (Mr Shafiqul Maula), (Janab Ali Ahmed Enamul Haq Ray Imran), Janab Abdul Mannan, Janab Rahmat Ali, (Janab S.M. Nurul Alam), (Janab Fakhruddin), (Janab Azizul Ismai Khan), (Janab Abdul Jalil), Janab Nurul Islam, Janab Abdus Samad, (Janab Shahzada Said), (Janab Sardar Amjad Hussein), (Janab Kamal Haider), and (Janab Mascodul Islam Kamal).

The announcement said this process will begin with the holding of thana level elections in the coming winter season to be followed by national level elections in the winter next year. Creation of a congenial atmosphere is a prerequisite for national discussion leading to consent and consensus on the process of democratization.

The announcement said the government hopes that political parties will help maintain a peaceful atmosphere and not allow the disruptive elements to gain the upper hand and again create a law and order situation which could vitiate the whole atmosphere. No one should be in any doubt that the government is determined not to allow anybody to disrupt the process of economic development undertaking for improving the lot of the common people. Similarly, no one will be allowed to disrupt, to protest or interfere with the normal life of the peace-loving citizens of the country.

The administrative decentralization and the rural development program undertaken for the benefit of the people must be allowed to go on peacefully and without any interruption in the larger interest of the nation. The government further hopes that all concerned will come forward to extend their hands of cooperation to initiate the process of peaceful discussion on the vital issues facing the nation. The gesture of the government in its sincere efforts to bring about a congenial atmosphere should therefore not be misconstrued by anybody. It is hoped that all sections of the society, including the political leaders and the intelligentsia, will come forward to contribute to the process of democratization that has been proposed to be initiated to give the country a sound and workable system of government.

ERSHAD TO HEAD NONALIGNED SUMMIT DELEGATION

BK011722 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The chief martial law administrator of Bangladesh, Lieutenant General Hussain Mohammad Ershad, will lead his country's delegation to the seventh nonaligned summit beginning in New Delhi on Monday. The delegation, among others, will comprise of the foreign minister, the additional foreign secretary, and other senior officers. General Ershad will leave for New Delhi on Sunday. This was announced by a Foreign Office spokesman in Dhaka today.

GANDHI VIEWS ASSAM SITUATION, OTHER ISSUES

BK011651 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The prime minister has said that the situation in Assam calls for calm and collective thinking, for understanding and reconciliation. Speaking in the two houses of parliament today, Mrs Gandhi stressed the need for all sections to curb their emotions and come together to find solutions. There is no problem on earth which cannot be solved through discussions.

The prime minister was replying to the debate on the president's address. Both the houses later adopted motions of thanks to the present.

Mrs. Gandhi said the situation in Assam had caused her great sadness. Even if some young people are today consumed by anger, she continues to regard them as her children and children of the country. While government has a responsibility to all the people of Assam, it has an even greater responsibility for the security, integrity, and unity of the country. She pointed out that bloodshed, killings, and sabotage had taken place in Assam on an unpredecented scale after the election. However, many people find it politically useful to attribute the violence entirely to the holding of elections. She noted that despite the violence, substantial sections, including sections of Assamese themselves, did go to vote, braving dangers.

The prime minister expressed her grave concern over the growth of regionalism but declared that the country is not going to break up. Some people indulged in such loose talk, but she is sure that parliament and the political parties will never allow the break up of the country.

About communalism, she said it is a blot on our nation. More secular-minded people should join in putting out this fire. The minorities knew of her deep anxiety for their safety and welfare. India stands for tolerance, compassion, and fellow feeling. Unfortunately, there is a growth of some extremist organizations among Hindus and Muslims. This is not helping the cause of harmony.

The prime minister referred to a congress member's plea for reviving the spirit of brotherhood in Punjab. She pointed out that the basic tenet in Sikhism is love and brotherhood among all the people. Some of the most moving hymns of Guru Nanak are those which favored Hindus and Muslims alike.

In a reference to the talk about corruption, she regretted the attempt to create an impression that India is a corrupt country. This is a slur on the nation. Government is fighting this evil and is determined to eradicate it. But while corruption is an evil, so is its political use.

Speaking about nonalignment, the prime minister said next week's summit will be the largest ever gathering of heads of state or government. This is a great honor for India. The summit is especially significant in the current troubled international situation.

Mrs. Gandhi said we hoped its deliberations will make some contribution to the solution of the problems of peace, disarmament, and development. She recalled that at every nonaligned conference there was tremendous pressure from outside to create divisions among nonaligned countries. Propaganda against nonalignment is not new. In a publication of the U.S. Pentagon, it was stated that India has a large number of Soviet military advisers. Despite an assurance that the error would be corrected, it has been repeated in a new publication as well as in a statement of the American defense secretary.

India is also accused of inclining toward the Soviet Union. This is not true. The Soviet Union has shown understanding and has stood by us in times of need. Nonalignment does not mean nonacknowledgment of friendship. But she made it clear that we have not allowed friendship or, for that matter, disagreement to come in the way of our independence of assessment of any issue. She was surprised that there should again be talk of genuine nonalignment.

Mrs Gandhi said when the so-called genuine nonalignment was in practice, the rest of the nonaligned world was genuinely perplexed about our genuine intention.

Mrs Gandhi also had a dig at the former American president, Mr Nixon, who had in a new book given away the town of Allahabad to Pakistan.

Turning to the economic scene, the prime minister said that 1982-83 was a drought year like 1979-80, but proper economic management had made all the difference. Giving an example, she said that while in 1979-80 prices were allowed to rise by 22 percent. The rise this year was 2.8 percent. Very few countries in the world have been able to achieve such a low inflation rate.

About the budget, she said an attempt has been made to raise resources through noninflationary measures. The basic tenet of the budget is to keep up planned expenditure. It has also given incentives for exports.

PORTFOLIOS OF ASSAM MINISTERS ANNOUNCED

BK011715 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] In Assam, the portfolios of the new ministers have been announced. The chief minister, Mr Hiteshwar Saika, is keeping with him a number of portfolios, including those of home, power, health, and family welfare. The ministers in the state will personally supervise relief and rehabilitation work in the areas affected by the violence and arson in the past weeks. Ten ministers are spreading out to various areas.

The chief minister, Mr Hiteshwar Saika, said today that top priority is given to restoration of normalcy so that the badly disrupted economic activities could be resumed at the earliest.

Meanwhile, except for some incidents of arson and group clashes in a few villages in Kampur area in Nowgong District today, no major untoward incident has been reported from the state.

INDEFINITE CURFEW IMPOSED ON ASSAM VILLAGES

BK020754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] In Assam, indefinite curfew has been clamped on some villages in (Jharobari) area of Kampur village police station in Nowgong following incidents of arson and group clashes yesterday. The army staged a flag march in the area.

CPI 'WELCOMES' GANDHI ACCEPTANCE OF SIKH DEMANDS

BK020509 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party has demanded reimposition of president's rule in Assam. The general secretary of the party, Mr. L.K. Advani, told newsmen in New Delhi that the members of parliament belonging to his party will also donate 500 rupees each to a relief fund.

The Central Executive of the Communist Party of India, in a statement, expressed concern over the violent incidents in Assam. It said the electoral process in the state was rendered futile by the statewide atmosphere of terror and intimidation launched by the antipoll agitators.

The executive of the party has welcomed the acceptance by the prime minister of some of the religious demands of the Sikhs. In a resolution adopted at its 4-day meeting in New Delhi, the party also appealed to the Akali leadership to desist from taking any step aggravating the situation.

The Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, also urged the Akalis to give up their agitational approach. He was talking to some students and youth leaders of Amritsar who called on him in Chandigarh yesterday.

NEW PARTY MINISTRY FORMED IN MEGHALAYA

BK021004 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Mar 83

[Text] In Meghalaya, a two-member ministry of the United Parliamentary Party assumed office in Shillong today. The governor, Prakash Mehrotra, administered the oath of office and secrecy to the chief minister, B.B. Lyngodh, and the deputy chief minister, H.S. Lyngodh.

Later, addressing a press conference, the chief minister said the ministry will be expanded very soon. He said the admission of the public demands implementation convention into the Meghalaya United Parliamentary Party is being formalized. The government will safeguard the identity, culture, and language of the tribal people in the state. Lyngodh also stressed the need for a population structure to maintain peace and harmony in the state.

AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH USSR ON SPACE RESEARCH

BK260849 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] A protocol has been signed between India and the Soviet Union for further cooperation in space research. It covers different aspects of space research with particular reference to remote sensing, astronomy, and astrophysics, atmospheric sciences, tracking of satellites, and space technology.

The protocol was signed in Banglalore yesterday at the end of the 5-day Indo-Soviet workshop on space research.

BRIEFS

TRADE PROTOCOL WITH ALGERIA -- India and Algeria have expressed the desire to increase bilateral trade. In a protocol concluded on 15 February, the two sides have emphasized the need for close cooperation consistent with the concept of self-reliance among developing countries. The protocol was signed in New Delhi by the industries minister, Mr Tiwari, and the Algerian minister of heavy industry, Mr Kasdi Merbah, at the end of the Algerian minister's visit to this country. The two sides proposed to establish functional working groups and subgroups within the framework of the Indo-Algerian Joint Commission to give greater thrust to the bilateral economic cooperation. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Feb 83 BK]

OFFSHORE OIL PRODUCTION -- The offshore production of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has crossed the record of 340,000 barrels a day. According to official sources in Bombay, the average daily production last year was 245,000 barrels. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Feb 83 BK]

OIL IN GODAVARI BASIN -- The presence of oil in the offshore Krishna-Godavari basin has been confirmed. Disclosing this in New Delhi, the petroleum minister, Mr Shiv Shankar, said that a well in the area is now flowing at a rate of over 860 barrels of crude per day. The crude oil produced from the well is very light. The minister said there are several other zones in the area still under testing. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Feb 83 BK]

POLITICAL LEADERS, WORKERS ARRESTED OVER MEETING

BK011429 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] In Pakistan, 18 political leaders and workers were arrested for holding an unauthorized memorial meeting near the Afghan border. Those arrested included politicians, lawyers, religious leaders, and a large number of followers of the late Maulana Mufti Mahmud, whose second death anniversary was celebrated yesterday.

MINISTER REACTS TO STATEMENT BY ISRAEL'S SHARON

BK011209 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The federal minister for law and parliamentary affairs, Mr Sharifuddin Pirzada, has said that Pakistan will always remain alert and do everything possible to safeguard its territorial integrity as well as that of other Muslim countries.

He said this while replying to a short notice question by Mr (Taj Mohammad Khanzada) and an adjournment motion moved by (Hafiz Mohammad Taqi), (Rao Mansab Ali Khan), and Mr (Zain Noorani) in the Majlis-i-Shoora this morning. They sought to invite the attention of the government to the press interview of the former Israeli defense minister, Mr Sharon, to an Italian correspondent, threatening to attack Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, and Muslim African states. He said Pakistan has received threats from the Israeli leaders from Ben Gurion to Begin for its stand against the Israeli policy of expansionism, aggression, and illegal occupation of Arab land and Jerusalem. He said Pakistan has asked its embassy in Rome to send an authentic text of the interview. He said, till then, Pakistan reserves its right to make comments. The movers did not press their motion after the statement of the law minister.

MINISTER EXPLAINS POWER PRODUCTION PLANS

GF271630 Karchi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 23 Feb 83 p 1

["International Edition"]

[Text] Islamabad, 22 Feb (PPI) -- The present government plans to accelerate power production and a long-range plan has been formulated for now and until the year 2000. This was revealed by the federal minister for water and power, Raja Sikandar Zaman, at today's Majlis-e-Shoora session to discuss the country's energy situation.

He said: The long-term plan includes power production from indigenous coal and the setting up of a nuclear powerplant. Financial problems, lack of capital, and the international community's critical attitude to the question of nuclear powerplants will have to be overcome, he said. Faja Sikandar Zaman said that measures to eliminate the energy crisis will be featured prominently in our next 5-year plan.

The minister added: It is doubtful that the country will be able to procure the necessary equipment at this time. Besides, astronomical sums of foreign exchange will be required for obtaining fuel for thermal power stations. To surmount these obstacles, people will have to learn to conserve energy. During the past 5 years, he said, power consumption has registered a rapid increase -- 14 percent annually.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,234

LD011753 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,234 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours on the western fronts, the fighters of Islam returned enemy fire and continued to defend the area under their protection. Using defensive fire and sending out patrol groups, they destroyed one troop carrier and a number of ammunition dumps containing light and heavy weapons belonging to the mercenaries of Saddam and stopped Iraqi engineering activities.

On the Marivan front, intense artillery fire by Ground Forces fighters smashed Iraqi positions and fortifications on the other side of the border and destroyed some of their trenches, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi mercenaries. They also stopped all enemy movement.

Between 0600 and 0700 yesterday, the criminal forces of Saddam brought parts of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab under their heavy artillery and Katyusha fire, destroying eight homes and injuring one of our dear compatriots. Following this savage act by the mercenaries of Saddam, the fighters of Islam opened heavy artillery fire on the units and artillery positions of the Iraqi criminals, silencing their fire and inflicting considerable losses and casualties upon the Iraqi mercenaries.

Sporadic fighting and exchange of fire continued yesterday on the southern fronts. The powerful and victorious forces of Islam stopped all enemy movement. Using defensive fire, they inflicted losses and casualties upon the enemy and destroyed a number of their supply routes. In the operational zones in the south, the exchange of fire was more intense between the Hoveyzeh border region up to Zeyd post. In the (Sharhani) region, one enemy patrol unit tried to infiltrate the positions of our forces but the enemy patrol operation was discovered and the Iraqi forces were scattered after our forces opened fire on them.

In Abadan and Khorramshahr fronts, as the result of the fire of the heroic forces of the Gendarmerie, one enemy ammunition dump and a number of machinegun and mortar positions and three observation posts of the Iraqi forces were set on fire and destroyed; some Iraqi forces were killed or wounded.

Abadan again yesterday came under artillery fire of the criminal forces of Saddam. Two houses were destroyed in that city.

All aerial aggressions of the enemy mercenaries against the western and southern sectors yesterday were neutralized as the result of the tactical operations of the self-sacrificing heroes of the Air Force and the fire of the antiaircraft units of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

DEFENSE MINISTER NOTES JET FIGHTER REPAIRS

LD020003 Tehran IRNA in English 2013 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 1, (IRNA) -- The aspirations and clear-sightedness of our able specialists during the four years after the victory of the revolution made it possible for the Defence Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran to triple its production of various items.

Colonel Mohammad Salim, defence minister of the Islamic Republic, in an interview with IRNA while making the above statement here today added that during the Iraqi imposed war a great deal of progress has been made in technical field by the military and a great part of the war fronts needs have been met by our defence specialists.

In the repair and maintenance section we were able to repair worn out parts and reinstall them in working order. Also our personnel in the aeronautic industry are hard at work repairing our jet fighters. In this field we have achieved a great deal of success, (?especially) with electronic systems.

All these achievements, he said, have been accomplished because we are committed to the Islamic Revolution under the able leadership of Imam Khomeyni. He said [word indistinct] war has brought out the ingenuity of the people, as witnessed in the defence industry and its personnel's performance.

Commenting on the Wal Fajr operation, Colonel Salimi said that contrary to the imaginations of the world oppressors and Saddam's hollow propaganda which said that the Iranian combatants could not penetrate and advance an inch forward, our victorious combatants ripped through the Iraqi fortifications and seized them one after the other.

The Wal Fajr operation he said is our last one which we will end on a vast scale.

Concluding Colonel Salami [words indistinct] on the Jerusalem Battallion said that this battalion has achieved combat readiness and supplies manpower needs for achieving our final victory.

ALGERIAN OFFICIAL ARRIVES TO DISCUSS RELATIONS

LD011147 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] Our correspondent reports that Rabah Bitat, president of the Algerian National People's Assembly and member of the Political Bureau of the National Liberation Front of that country, arrived in Tehran this morning on an official 3-day visit. He heads a political delegation.

He was welcomed by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani. A number of Majlis deputies, the Algerian ambassador to Tehran, and the Iranian ambassador to Algeria also were present.

During his stay in Tehran, Rabah Bitat will hold talks with officials on political issues affecting Islamic and Arab countries and relations between the two countries.

On his arrival in Tehran he read a message about his visit:

[Begin Bitat recording in Arab, fading into Persian translation] I am very glad to have come to the holy land of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This trip is at the invitation of my brother and friend, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran is considered a great revolution and event on the international scene. It has made Algeria happy. The people of Algeria eagerly follow the news, achievements, and efforts of the people of Iran under the wise leadership of Imam Khomeyni for the development of Iran. It is natural that the Islamic Revolution has laid a strong foundation for friendly and fraternal relations between the two countries. [end recording]

Regarding his trip to Tehran, he said: This visit will give us an opportunity to discuss fundamental issues affecting Arab and Islamic countries with our Iranian brothers. He finally expressed his pleasure at carrying a message of friendship from the government and nation of Algeria for the Iranian people.

INDUSTRIES MINISTER RETURNS FROM LIBYAN MEETING

LD020414 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Summary] Industries Minister Hashemi returned from Libya after meeting with Libyan industrial and economic officials and the secretary of foreign liaison of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

After visiting a number of industrial units, the industries minister reached agreement with Libyan officials on carrying out studies regarding bilateral capabilities, particularly industrial and technical activities by Iranian and Libyan industrialists.

VELAYATI DESCRIBES RECENT TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA

GF271644 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 27, IRNA -- The Islamic Republic's relations with Yugoslavia after the victory of the revolution expanded to such an extent that bilateral trade last year, 1360 (beginning March 21, 1982) was 20 times more than the pre-revolutionary period and it is expected to increase 30 times more in the current year 1361.

'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, about his recent visit to Yugoslavia further said that this visit was in response to his Yugoslav counterpart's invitation as well as the latter's visit to Iran.

Velayati added that the Islamic Republic has had great coordination in political fields with Yugoslavia in the recent months. He further said the endeavours of the late Marshal Tito gave shape to Yugoslavia in its treading the path of non-alignment.

Continuing Velayati added that the Islamic Revolution brought about real independence for Iran after the ousting of the ex-shah and in the up-coming non-aligned meet Iran has a destiny making role to play.

Concluding he said that Iran and Yugoslavia can play an important role in formulating the policies of the non-aligned countries.

OFFICIALS MEET WITH YUGOSLAV DELEGATION

Economy, Finance Minister

LD261842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] The president of the Executive Council of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia, who is heading a high-ranking economic delegation on a visit to our country, met with the minister of economy and finance this afternoon. At this meeting, the minister of economy and finance expressed the hope that economic and financial relations between the two countries will be expanded and pointed out that Iran's "neither East nor West" policy makes it incumbent on our country to expand its relations with Yugoslavia.

The head of the Yugoslav delegation said: We are looking for friends and helping hands from among the free countries of the world and are glad that our relations with Iran have expanded over the past 2 or 3 years. We believe the road is open to further cooperation between our two countries. He expressed the hope that cooperation in heavy industry, agriculture, petrochemicals, shipbuilding, railways, and machine tool manufacturing would increase. He then elaborated on the fields in which there is possibility for cooperation and announced the readiness of his country to engage in such cooperation.

Our minister of economy and finance in turn announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand economic relations with Yugoslavia: What is important in our view is that the goods exchanged and the services provided should be competitive on an international level as to price and quality. With this in mind, we are ready for any kind of exchange, relations, and cooperation.

Commerce Minister

LD271825 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] The economic and trade delegation from Yugoslavia headed by Ante Markovic, president of the Republican Executive Council of Croatia, this afternoon met with Commerce Minister 'Asgar-Owladi.

At this meeting, 'Asgar-Owaldi elaborated on the commerce policy pursued by the Islamic Republic of Iran: We can have a mutual understanding in many fields since our revolution has taught us to buy our requirements from our friends as much as possible. He added: No doubt, if relations between nonaligned countries become stronger and more sincere, international plunderers will be forced to leave the scene. However, the two sides should try to maintain an internationally competitive level in providing for each other's needs.

The president of the Republican Executive Council of Croatia then said: In addition to oil, we have zinc, copper, and leather, which we can buy from your country. He added: We arrived in Iran with new proposals and we can meet your needs in different fields, such as chemicals, plastics, foodstuffs, paper, wood, clothes, material, medicine, and ships. In addition, we announce our readiness to export technological know-how to your country.

'Asgar-Owaldi then stressed the importance of expansion of relations between the two countries: I hope we will be able to have good relations with nonaligned countries and our friends in the Third World. Our nation has proved, despite great pressure, it can remain nonaligned.

NATEQ-NURI SAYS 'WE FIGHT U.S., WATCH USSR'

GF271420 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri in his speech [at Friday prayers on 25 February in Shiraz] referred to the leadership of Iran and the sacrifices of the nation, saying that our nation from the day it welcomed death, from the day it became dedicated to (?providing service) and working in the service of clerical rule, and from the day martydom became a way of life for our people, the people started pursuing martydom in every corner of the country and gained new honor.

In another part of his speech, while noting that Iran was the only country following the "neither East nor West" policy, Nateq-Nuri referred to the recent arrest of Tudeh Party leaders. He said when the Tudeh Party leaders were arrested, PRAVDA asked how could Iran, while the war continued and it is openly against the United States and is grappling with France, how could it commit such an act as arresting the Tudeh Party leaders. He said, in fact, they [the Soviets] hardly understand Iran's problems. They should know that the God-inspired works of the umma' cannot be analyzed. They thought that while we direct our efforts against the United States, we would tend to overlook any action of the Soviet Union or its henchmen, or at least keep quite. No, it is not so, not when our young men shout slogans of "neither East nor West -- the Islamic Republic of Iran." We fight the United States and also watch the Soviet Union and thwart its designs. Today, if anybody from the East, West, North, or South casts a covetous eye on our country, we will resist with all our might even if that means that we all join martyrdom.

COMMENTARY ON ATTEMPTS TO FOIL NONALIGNED SUMMIT

GF251823 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 25 Feb 83

[From the "Behind the News" Program]

[Text] In a commentary on the new imperialist moves to conspire against the next nonaligned summit, IRNA says:

With the approach of the nonaligned summit scheduled to be held in the Indian capital next month, imperialist circles, which have been heavily wounded by the change in the venue of the conference from Baghdad to New Delhi, have tried to create a virulent media atmosphere to spread over the conference by taking minor news items and putting them under the poisonous media spotlight. It should be noted here that this is an attempt by the aggressive information media organs to depict India as an unstable country unsuitable for international conferences.

The information media issue is that we hear these days, from all the imperialist trumpets, about the disturbances, which they call tribalism and sectarianism, raging in India and Pakistan. Regarding these disturbances, some foreign news agencies claimed that there are sectarian battles going on between Sunnis and Shi'ites. This claim is untrue because the fact is that those who kindled these sectarian disturbances are from the Yazidi sect and Muslims know that their enemies are the Americans, the Zionists, and the rest of the Western and Eastern international arrogance countries.

As for the disturbances in India, Indian officials say that the SULA [Seven United Liberation Army] movement has lost its popular support in these areas and is trying to return by force to the political arena.

In this regard, AFP, in a report from New Delhi, says the Indian police arrested three eminent members in the SULA organization last week. The agency adds that the three members admitted, after hours of interrogation, that their organization had announced the renewal of its political activities, taking advantage of the deteriorating situation in the Indian state of Assam.

Political observers say imperialist circles are trying with all their might to take advantage of the situation in Karachi and the Indian state of Assam to achieve the following targets:

First, it is known that the world arrogance was, and still is, trying to take advantage of internal crises in countries to easily collaborate to dismember and colonize these countries and to plunder their wealth. Therefore, we see that the aggressive information media are trying to depict the disturbances which took place in Karachi and the Indian state of Assam as a wide-range internal war.

Second, imperialist circles are putting the situation in Pakistan and the Indian state of Assam under focus of the poisonous media to distort facts about the nonaligned summit which will be held in New Delhi next month and to draw the curtain on its outcome.

Furthermore, the imperialist circles have instructed their reactionary agents in the Arab countries to collaborate against the nonaligned summit and to stand together against the just stand that the Islamic Republic wants to propose during the next nonaligned conference. The suspicious moves which some reactionary Arab officials made in Asia, Shah Husayn's tour of Europe, and the statements by agent Mubarak on the participation of all reactionary Arab parties in the conference against the Islamic Republic are clear indications of the extent of imperialist-reactionary collaboration against the Islamic Revolution, the oppressed Muslim peoples, the Nonaligned Movement, and its next summit conference scheduled to be held in India very soon.

NVOI COMMENTARY CRITICIZES 'PSEUDO-MUSLIMS'

TA241956 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian at 1730 GMT on 24 February carries a commentary entitled: "To What Ruses Do They Resort To Divert the People's Opinions?" It says: By taking advantage of Islamic rites, the pseudo-Muslims are displaying some rare masterpieces. The question is how, in this age, they intend to numb people's minds by drowning them in the quagmire of the myths and superstitions of the Middle Ages.

An example of this is a recently published calendar entitled "The Calendar of the Iranian Republic's Islamic Justice Revolution." In this pocket calendar, there are certain instructions whose implementation have been recommended to those who are pious. For example, if one wants to get rid of the oppressor, he has to repeat a word from the Koran 306 times a day. Or if one wants to stay healthy, he has to repeat a certain word 391 times a day. In short, this calendar provides instructions on how one can live prosperously and securely by repeating various words so many times a day.

This shows how during the period following the Iranian Revolution, the pseudo-Muslims want to divert public opinion from the main tasks and duties which are necessary to intensify the struggle to perpetuate the revolution. They want to defame the revolution and to show that this revolution, which overthrew a sinister and oppressive regime, has not brought the people anything except superstitions and hollow myths. The aim of publishing this nonsense is to distort the true content of revolutionary and real Islam and to prevent the people from their destiny-making struggles to create a free and progressive Iran and a society of justice. These are the very publications that the imam of the nation has rightly called deviationist and opposed to the spirit of Islam and its principles.

NVOI SCORES 'HOJJATIYEH SOCIETY ELEMENTS'

TA280911 [Editorial Report] The clandestine National Voice of Iran in Persian at 1730 GMT on 26 February carries a commentary entitled: "The Hojjatiyeh Society -- Revolution's Plague and Termite." It says No counterrevolutionary plot and no criminal measure aimed at fanning division and discord and undermining the revolution can be found in our homeland in which the CIA-afflicted hojjatis are not involved, whether directly or indirectly. It is regrettable that elements affiliated with the Hojjatiyeh Society implement all the plans and directives of the United States under the pro-Islamic mask.

More regrettable is the fact that the hojjatis, under the leadership of Majlis Deputy Halabi, are supported by a substantial part of the clergy and even by those in the upper echelons. If we disregard the claims of elements affiliated with the Hojjatiyeh Society with regard to their following Islam, to which they resort merely to conceal their true nature, the deeds and acts of these gentlemen indicate that the Hojjatiyeh Society is actually in the stance of the counterrevolution.

The ultimate goal of the hojjatiyeh Society is to eliminate our nation's revolutionary gains under the guise of Islam, to strike at the Islamic Government, to isolate revolutionary Iran from its true friends in the international arena, and to implement America's plan to install a government compatible with the interests, wishes, and values of the United States.

People must be more alert in recognizing these elements. The danger of the hojjatis for the revolution stems from the fact that they strike the revolution in the back under the mask of Islam and pseudo-Islam. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the realistic wing of the Islamic leadership to adopt a realistic and revolutionary attitude toward such elements. The identification and dismissal of these opponents of the revolution is the urgent and vital need of our revolution.